

LAW OFFICES

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December 17, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554ORIGINAL  
RECEIVEDDEC 20 2004  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of SecretaryRe: *Ex Parte* Notice, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service;  
CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission"), 47 CFR § 1.1206, this letter provides notice that on December 16, 2004, Todd Lantor, Chief Regulatory Counsel of Nextel Partners, Inc. ("Nextel Partners"), along with Albert J. Catalano and Matthew J. Plache of Catalano & Plache, PLLC, counsel to Nextel Partners, met with Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein, Barry Ohlson, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Adelstein and Scott Bergmann, Legal Advisor for Wireline Issues to Commissioner Adelstein. At the meeting, the attendees discussed the Rural Local Exchange Carriers' ("Rural LECS") Application for Review of the Bureau's Order in the above-referenced proceeding designating Nextel Partners as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in seven states. We discussed the issues raised in the Application for Review and the procedural deficiencies of the Rural LECs' arguments as discussed in Nextel Partners' Opposition to the Application for Review and Motion to Strike the Rural LECs' Reply to Opposition. We discussed the difficulty in staying the Bureau's Order in light of the finality of other ETC designation orders.

In addition, we discussed the maps submitted by TDS Telecom ("TDS") in the course of recent *ex parte* communications and discussed Nextel Partners' ability and commitment to provide the ETC supported services within the study areas in which Nextel Partners has in fact been designated as an ETC, noting that Nextel Partners has not been designated in many of the study areas depicted on the TDS maps.

Very truly yours,



Albert J. Catalano

cc: Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Barry Ohlson, Senior Legal Advisor  
Scott Bergmann, Legal Advisor for Wireline Issues  
Todd Lantor, Chief Regulatory Counsel, Nextel Partners, Inc.No. of Copies: at 3  
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